

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005. Claims 4-12 and 17-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 13-16 and 26 have been canceled and claims 4, 5, 17 and 18 have been amended. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 13-16 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 4-12 and 17-25 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 4-12 and 17-25 are presented for reconsideration.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 13-16 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rothenberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,056). Claims 1-3, 13-16 and 26 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Objection

Claims 4-12 and 17-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 5, 17 and 18 have been amended to place them in independent form and include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 4, 5, 17 and 18.

As claims 6-12 depend from claim 5 and claims 19-25 depend from claim 18, Applicants submit that these claims should also be allowed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 6-12 and 19-25.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendments and remarks have overcome the rejection and objection set forth in the Office Action dated June 27, 2005. Specifically, Applicants' cancellation of claims 1-3, 13-16 and 26 renders moot the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants' amendments to claims 4, 5, 17 and 18 place these claims in independent form, thus overcoming the objection to claims 4-12 and 17-25. The Office Action admitted that claims 4-12 and 17-25 contained allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 4-12 and 17-25 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 4-12 and 17-25.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 100021-00141.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Amendment and Fee Transmittal

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